



## REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

March 21, 2024

*Sent via electronic mail only*

Vice Admiral John Wade  
Commander  
Joint Task Force - Red Hill  
1025 Quincy Avenue, Suite 900  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii 96860-5101  
john.f.wade2.mil@us.navy.mil

Re: Joint Task Force – Red Hill Exit Criteria Complete

Dear VADM Wade:

Between March 5-8, 2024, The Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) completed an Interim Defueling Completion Inspection of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF). On March 18, 2024, EPA delivered a Preliminary Request for Information Regarding the Interim Defueling Completion Inspection to the Joint Task Force – Red Hill (JTF-RH) "...request[ing a response] before completing transition of authority to the Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH)." JTF-RH provided to EPA a response on March 20, 2024.

Based on our findings, EPA concludes that JTF-RH has met all eleven exit criteria listed in Defueling Plan Supplement 3 that must be met before JTF-RH transitions authority of the RHBFSF to the NCTF-RH. EPA finds it that no further action is required of the JTF-RH following a transfer of defueling and closure responsibilities to the NCTF-RH.

While defueling is not complete, the Department of Defense and the Defensive Logistics Agency have proposed a path forward for project completion through implementation by the NCTF-RH. Key responsibilities of the NCTF-RH include, but are not limited to:

- Removing all fuel and fuel-derived waste from the RHBFSF. This includes residual fuel that must be removed by destructive means and sludge material accumulated at the bottom of tanks.

- Fulfilling hazardous waste management requirements for the drums containing captured oily waste/fuel from the AFFF Retention Line located at building 313 and the Tank 1 bay in the Lower Access Tunnel.
- Completing the tank 311 inspection and submitting results to EPA.
- Completing removal of all AFFF concentrate from the RHBFSF.
- Fulfilling all Requests for Information related to the Interim Defueling Completion Inspection carried out by EPA from March 5-8, 2024.

EPA will address future correspondences related to findings on the Interim Defueling Completion Inspection Report and more broadly on defueling and closure to NCTF-RH.

EPA commends the JTF-RH for the removal of a vast majority of the fuel stored within the RHBFSF upon establishment of the task force. We look forward to a seamless transition as responsibility for final fuel removal activities shifts to the NCTF-RH. Please contact me directly as needed, or have any technical questions directed to Evan Osborne (206,553-1747, [osborne.evan@epa.gov](mailto:osborne.evan@epa.gov)).

Sincerely,

/s/ March 21, 2024

Jamie Marincola, Acting Deputy Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Division

cc: Kathleen Ho, Hawai'i Department of Health  
BG Michelle Link, JTF Red Hill  
RADM Stephen Barnett, U.S. Navy Region Hawaii  
RDML Jeffrey J. Kilian, NAVFAC Pacific  
David Kless, Defense Logistics Agency